

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4119
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, PBOR, UR, NO
SUBJ: FURTHER PRESS COMMENT ON U.S. VIEW OF BARENTS SEA FISHING
ZONE DRAFT TREATY

REF: A. OSLO 3340 (B) STATE 168002

1. ALL MAJOR NORWEGIAN MEDIA CARRIED EMBASSY'S COMMENT MADE
YESTERDAY (JULY 20) (REF A) THAT THE US REGARDS THE SOVIET-
NORWEGIAN NEGOTIATIONS ON FISHING ZONES IN THE BARENTS SEA TO
BE A PURELY BILATERAL ISSUE AND THAT THE JOINT CHIEFS HAD NOT
DISCUSSED THE MATTER, AS NORWEGIAN RADIO REPORTED TUESDAY
MORNING, JULY 19.

2. THE WIDE PLAY, INCLUDING PRIME TIME TV NEWS, GIVEN TO THE STATE-
MENT WILL DO MUCH TO CORRECT ANY PUBLIC IMPRESSION CREATED BY
THE TUESDAY RADIO REPORT THAT THE US IS VITALLY INTERESTED IN
THE DRAFT TREATY AND HAS TAKEN A POSITION ON IT. A COMMENT
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BY FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND CARRIED IN TODAY'S LABOR PARTY
DAILY ARBEIDERBLADET WILL ALSO BE HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD.
SAID FRYDENLUND, QUOTE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS RECEIVED A CLEAR
MESSAGE FROM OFFICIAL AMERICAN SOURCES THAT THE DRAFT FISHING
AGREEMENT WAS NOT DISCUSSED IN THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.
UNQUOTE.

3. FURTHER DEVELOPING THE STORY, HOWEVER, ARBEIDERBLADET SAYS THE TREATY NONETHELESS HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST AT THE US LOS DELEGATION IN NEW YORK. US LOS INTEREST WAS ALSO A CENTRAL THEME OF A RADIO COMMENTARY WEDNESDAY EVENING (JULY 20) BY THE SAME REPORTER, HARALD KJOLAS, WHO MADE THE INITIAL TUESDAY MORNING (JULY 19) MORNING REPORT. THIS CLEARLY WAS THE LEAST HELPFUL OF ALL MEDIA REPORTS ON THE SUBJECT. SAID KJOLAS: QUOTE SOURCES IN THE AMERICAN LOS DELEGATION HAVE SAID THAT THE STRATEGIC ASPECTS OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT, WHEN SEEN FROM THE US SUPERPOWER PERSPECTIVE, ARE ACCEPTABLE. THIS IS BECAUSE THE AGREEMENT WOULD NOT MEANINGFULLY DISTURB THE BALANCE IN THE AREA, AND ONE HAS TO ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO THE FACT THAT THE SOVIET UNION SEEMS TO HAVE YIELDED MOST IN STRATEGIC TERMS. THE INNER SOVIET DEFENSE PERIMETER PASSES BETWEEN THE SECTOR LINE AND THE MEDIAN LINE, AND THE SOVIETS HAVE ACCEPTED A TEMPORARY JOINT JURISDICTION OF FISHERIES INSIDE THIS DEFENSE PERIMETER. THEREFORE, AMERICAN MILITARY EXPERTS FEEL THE SOVIETS HAVE MADE GREATER STRATEGIC CONCLUSIONS. UNQUOTE (THAN NORWAY).

4. WE BELIEVE THE STORY HAS NOW RUN ITS COURSE, LEAVING GENERALLY CONSTRUCTIVE GON AND MEDIA VIEW TO THE EFFECT THAT, WHILE THE USG HAS A NATURAL INTEREST IN SUCH MATTERS, IT HAS, IN NO WAY INTRUDED UPON THE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN NORWAY AND THE USSR. THE STORY WILL, IN ALL PROBABILITY, RESURFACE TO OUR DISADVANTAGE IF NORWEGIAN REPORTERS ARE ABLE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ELICIT FURTHER COMMENT FROM US OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON OR NEW YORK.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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ISecure: 1
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